[Mr. S. J. Nair.]

There is also another point in favour of the pleaders. They study, in their law course, Travancore laws also, while B. Ls., Barristers and LL. Bs., begin to study Travancore laws only after they actually set up practice. The pecuniary jurisdiction of Munsiffs' Courts now is as high as Rs. 2,000 and the Civil Courts Powers (Amendment) Bill proposes to enhance it to Rs 2,500. And, in Shencotta, the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Munsiff's Court is Rs. 5,000. If pleaders can be allowed to practise before the Shencotta Munsiff's Court, the pecuniary jurisdiction of which is Rs. 5,000, I do not see any rhyme or reason why all pleaders should not be permitted to practise before District Courts even after they have gained experience of a few years. So far as the confidence of the litigant public is concerned, the fact that pleaders command better practice than the B. Ls., in all mofussil Courts centres makes it clear that the litigant public have greater confidence in the pleaders than in the B. Ls. That is because the pleaders know Travancore law better than the B. Ls. I am told that, in British India, now, as a result of the abolition of the pleadership examination, all the Second Grade Pleaders have been permitted to practise in District Courts, so that in British India there exists now only two classes of vakils, namely, High Court Vakils and District Court Vakils. I am speaking of the conditions in the Madras Presidency. It is therefore high time that here also the status of the pleaders is raised. They deserve encouragement. Now that the pleadership class has been abolished, or suspended there cannot be any fear of overcrowding, in the future, by pleaders.

With these words I introduce the Bill and request the House to accept the principles of the Bill.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I oppose this Bill. I have not forgotten the suggestion made a few minutes ago by Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai, namely, that Mr. Nair may withdraw his Bill if the Government would undertake to consider the question of allowing the Second Grade Pleaders to be enrolled in the District Court when the Bar Councils Bill is taken up for consideration. I can assure the House, Sir, that I am quite prepared to have the matter considered. I cannot offer more than that. I am not the entire master of the situation. The matter has to be considered in the Committee, and, perhaps, by this House also afterwards. Therefore, so far as I am concerned all that I can say is that I am prepared to have this matter considered by the appropriate body when the Bar Councils Bill is taken up.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is he prepared to consider it *sympathetically*? (*Laughter.*)

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, that word is rather embarrasing. I am prepared to consider it *reasonably*. As the same time I do not know whether the House will be prepared to permit Mr. Nair to withdraw his Bill, especially since they have helped him to introduce the Bill though he had

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merely wanted to ask for leave to introduce. Since the Bill has been placed before the House, Mr. Nair cannot withdraw unless the House permits him to do so. Anyhow, Sir, since I oppose the Bill, I may perhaps give my reasons for doing so.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I ask my friend whether, if I get the permission of the House to withdraw my Bill on the strength of the assurance given by him, any real purpose would be served by his making a speech ? (*Laughter.*)

MR. KAYALAM PARAMEVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I shall certainly be thankful to my friend if I am saved from making a speech now.

PRESIDENT : But, reasonably can Mr. Nair anticipate the verdict of the House ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : In the face of the important resolution under discussion, I hope the Honourable Members will bear with me and permit me to withdraw my Bill on the strength of the assurance so kindly given by the Law Member.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : Is there not a definite undertaking when he made his speech that he would not apply for withdrawal ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I move to withdraw the Bill in the face of the assurance given by the Law Member.

PRESIDENT: No reasons must be mentioned for withdrawal.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I withdraw.

PRESIDENT : The motion before the House is that Mr. S. J. Nair be permitted to withdraw the motion that the Vakils' Regulation Amendment Bill be read in Council.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST—SALARIES OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS - (*contd.*)

PRESIDENT : Then we go to the discussion on the resolution which had not been completed yesterday. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai was still speaking when the House adjourned for discussing the adjournment motion. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai may continue his speech.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, I pointed out the day before yesterday that there were only two definite points in the resolution moved by Mr. S. J. Nair, the two definite points being the upper limit of Rs. 1,000 and the lower limit of Rs. 15. Almost all the public servants now in the service of the State would fall in the inter-space bounded on the top by Rs. 1,000 and at the bottom by Rs 15. In this inter-space, what the Government may do or may not do is not made clear by this resolution. It was suggested that they would adhere to the present practice of regulating the pay, promotions and other privileges of Sirkar servants in accordance with the existing standard. They may do it or not do it if this resolution is

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

carried. Further, considerable difficulty also will be experienced even if the Government are prepared to graduate or regulate the pay and other emoluments of public servants in the service of the State. For, if we commence from the bottom, the lowest pay is Rs. 15. Now, a graduated scale as to superiority or inferiority cannot be dispensed with. The peons attached to the Proverthikar's office in the villages, known generally as *masapadikaran*, should be paid Rs. 15. It must reasonably be granted that the Accountant should be paid above Rs 15, the Proverthikar proportionately higher and the Deputy Tahsildar still higher. Then the Tahsildar comes in. He must necessarily get a proportionate increment to his pay So the result of the grading of the servants from the bottom will be a thorough increase in expenditure all along the line in the public service of the State. If, on the other hand, we commence from the top, how would the matter stand? A thousand rupees will be the pay of the Dewan of Travancore. That is certainly an attractive proposition, Sir. For, the present incumbent who is getting Rs. 4,000, it will be reduced to a quarter of his salary dimension. But the resolution requires that a proportionate reduction should be made down to the bottom if we are to regulate the pay of all the subordinates. When we come to the bottom, the pay of the *masapadikkaran* or the Anchal runner or the policeman, who stands on the public road and indulges in pantomimic shows for the direction of motor cars, will be reduced to Rs. 3 or 4.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know if the member considers that the present graduation is perfect and is inviolable?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): I am not in the least enamoured of the *magnum opus* of Mr. Tommen in the matter of standardisation (*Laughter.*) Even the reasonableness of that I am not prepared to accept. I am pointing out that the implication in Mr. S. J. Nair's resolution, that Government may be left to themselves in modulating the pay, or to standardise the pay, and that this House need not tell them anything about it because they are expected to know it, will lead to all manner of complications according as you begin from the bottom or the top. In the medial line between Rs. 15 and Rs. 1,000, there would be a serious struggle of those attempting to rise and those coming down from the top. There would be a serious breach of the peace. In fact, what Mr. Nair attempts is to lower the top and raise the bottom, in other words, to squeeze those who are put in the inter-space to a pulp. Some of them cannot but get jagged and jammed.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Will not there be more life and activity?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Life will be extinguished in the pressure (*Laughter*)

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether it is not better that the Sirkar service is left less attractive than it is at present?

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): That is not what Mr. Nair is attempting to do. According to the computation of the Chief Account Officer, Mr. Nair's resolution would result in larger expenditure. If it will be lesser expenditure, I could understand the force of the resolution.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether, by reducing the number of high paid officers, my object would not be achieved ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): The Chief Account Officer has shown that there was no possibility of making a reduction. On the contrary, you have to go further to keep to the resolution of Mr. Nair. I am prepared to agree with Mr. Nair that there is need for reduction in the expenditure on the services. These emoluments of the services were fixed when the State was in a prosperous condition. Cocoanut was selling at Rs. 4 and Rs. 5. Paddy was selling at half a rupee per *kallur kadan* para. Nobody felt any grievance. Now the tables are very painfully turned. The tax-payer finds it difficult to meet the demands of the State. The Government have somehow or other to keep up their prestige. They are not prepared for a cut in the salaries of their officers. On the other hand, they resort to standardisation of pay, which will bear fruit only some years hence. Meanwhile, what is the fate of the tax-payer? He demands various things. All the nation-building activities of the State are in a lull. Even such things as combating malaria and cholera are not attended to. Public health is not attended to. Provision of drinking water, which is such a serious necessity in the State, is not taken into consideration at all. What is the placid explanation from the Government side? They answer, "no funds". The attempt of the Education Department is to reduce the number of schools. Thus the hands of the clock are being put back considerably on account of scarcity of money. It is the interest of Government to see that as little expenditure is incurred as possible. While that is the condition, to suggest that the minimum rate of Rs. 15 should on no account be lowered is a very serious sweeping proposition which cannot be accepted by this House. I am perfectly in agreement with Mr. Nair's resolution, which, in effect, is that there should be considerable reduction of the expenditure now incurred on the services. But I am very sorry that the resolution, as it is now couched, in the language of Mr. S. J. Nair, is very misleading. So, while I congratulate Mr. Nair for bringing up the question for consideration, for the praiseworthy endeavour that lies at the back of it to see that expenditure on the services is reduced, I find some difficulty to vote for him by way of supporting the resolution.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*) : Sir, I am also sorry I have to oppose the resolution. I would have kept quiet but for the question put to Mr. Narayana Pillai suggesting that Mr. Nair personally would like to make the public service less attractive than it is. It is an astounding proposition, a dangerous proposition, I would say, a mischievous proposition. Sir, the best talent in any country is

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